

February 4, 2004

SCOPING NOTICE
Salt Wells 3D Geophysical Project

Dear Reader:

GeoTir Corporation (GeoTir) has filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Conduct Geophysical Operations with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rock Springs Field Office, for a 3D geophysical project on public lands within Sweetwater County, Wyoming. The proposed project is located in Township 14 North, Ranges 102 and 103 West, 6th Principal Meridian. The attached document serves as notice of the beginning of the environmental analysis process to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. If you are interested in participating in the process and have concerns, issues, or alternatives you would like to see addressed, please respond with your written comments by **March 8, 2004**.

Send written comments to:

Address: John MacDonald
Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

Email: rock_springs_wymail@blm.gov
(Please reference Salt Wells 3D Project in the subject field)

Written comments in response to this notice, including the names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Rock Springs Field Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday (except federal holidays) after the comment period closes. These comments may be published as part of the environmental process although individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

If you have questions regarding this project, please contact John MacDonald at 307-352-0238.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael R. Holbert

Michael R. Holbert
Field Manager

Attachment

**Bureau of Land Management
Rock Springs Field Office**

**SCOPING NOTICE
SALT WELLS 3D GEOPHYSICAL PROJECT**

Description of Project

GeoTir Corporation (GeoTir) has filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Conduct Geophysical Operations with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rock Springs Field Office.

The proposed project is located approximately 40 miles south of Rock Springs and west of Highway 430, in the Elk Butte and Laney Canyon area. The project would encompass about 4,520 acres of federal land, 160 acres of private land, and 480 acres of State land within T14N, R103W and T14N, R102W (see attached map). Those portions of the project occurring on private and state lands are not subject to BLM authorization and would be permitted separately by GeoTir.

The proposed project would be single shot holes drilled at each source station utilizing truck, buggy mounted, or heliportable drills. The source station interval would be 220 feet, with source lines 1,540 feet apart. The receiver station interval would be 220 feet, with receiver lines 880 feet apart. A helicopter would be used to deploy recording equipment. All shot holes would be plugged according to Wyoming Oil and Gas Commission standards. The project is scheduled to take 60 days to complete during the summer of 2004.

Relationship to Existing Plans and Documents

Resource Management Plan –The document that directs management of BLM-administered lands within the analysis area is the Green River Resource Management Plan (RMP, August 8, 1997). The objective for management of geophysical exploration is to provide opportunity for exploration of mineral resources and collection of geophysical data, while protecting other resource values.

Use Authorization – An approved Notice of Intent to Conduct Geophysical Operation is subject to the Terms and Conditions for a Notice of Intent to Conduct Geophysical Exploration. Other conditions of approval to protect important resources may be added to the authorization if analysis proves such measures would further reduce environmental impact.

National Environmental Policy Act

On reviewing the proposal from GeoTir, the BLM has determined that an environmental analysis is required to determine whether impacts from the Proposed Action would be considered significant. Additionally, NEPA requires that a No Action alternative be considered in all environmental documents. This will allow a comparison of the economic and environmental consequences of the alternatives. Under the No Action Alternative, geophysical operations would not occur within the project area.

Identified Resource Management Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities

The following issues and concerns have been identified by the BLM to date. It is not meant to be an all-inclusive list, but rather a starting point for public input and a means of identifying the resource disciplines needed to conduct the analysis.

Raptor nesting habitat
Greater sage-grouse habitat
Big game winter range
Steep slopes
Salt Wells Creek and related springs, and riparian areas
Cultural resources.

Timing Needs or Requirements

Public input is important in establishing the level and scope of the analysis. The public is encouraged to participate in the environmental analysis process to help in identifying the level of analysis needed, alternatives to the proposed action, other issues or concerns that should be analyzed, mitigative opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure the completeness of the analysis process.

Please submit your comments by **March 8, 2004**. Written comments should be mailed to:

Address: John MacDonald
 Rock Springs Field Office
 280 Highway 191 North
 Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

Email: rock_springs_wymail@blm.gov
 (please reference Salt Wells 3D Project in the subject line)

Public Participation

The following individuals and organizations will receive a copy of this scoping statement:

Government Offices

Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office (910, 912, 920, 930)
Office of the Governor
U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Wyoming State Clearinghouse
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Cheyenne, Green River)

Elected and Other Officials

Mayors of Rock Springs, Green River, Superior
State Senators: Rae Lynn Job, Tex Boggs, Larry Caller
State Representatives: Fred Parady, Mick Owen,
Sweetwater County Commissioners
Sweetwater County Planner
Sweetwater County Libraries, Green River, Rock Springs

Elected and Other Officials - continued

U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Cubin, Bonnie Cannon, Representative

U.S. Senator Mike Enzi, Lyn Shanaghy, Representative

U.S. Senator Craig Thomas, Pati Smith, Representative

Public Land Users and User Groups

Grazing permittees for the Salt Wells, Mellor Mountain, and Vermillion Creek Allotments

Affected oil and gas lessees

Affected rights-of-way holders

People for the West

Petroleum Association of Wyoming

Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States

Native American Tribes: Eastern Shoshone, Northern Ute, Northern Arapaho, Shoshone-Bannock

Sierra Club, Northern Plains Representative

Southwest Wyoming Industrial Association

Wilderness Society

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

National Wildlife Federation

Wyoming Wildlife Federation

Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists

Wyoming Outdoor Council

Wyoming Public Lands Council

Wyoming Chapter of the Sierra Club

Environmental Defense Fund

Biodiversity Conservation Alliance

Newspapers

Rock Springs Daily Rocket-Miner

Casper Star-Tribune

Green River Star

Radio Stations

KQSW/KRKK. Rock Springs

KMKX - Rock Springs

KUGR - Green River

KYCS - Rock Springs

Television Stations

KTWO-TV - Casper

KCWY-TV - Casper

KFNB-TV - Casper

KGWC-TV - Casper